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Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Today's prayer will be offered by our guest chaplain, Dr. Clarence Newsome, dean of chapel, Howard University School of Divinity, Washington, DC. We are pleased to have you with us.

PRAYER

The guest chaplain, Dr. Clarence G. Newsome, dean of chapel, Howard University School of Divinity, Washington, DC, offered the following prayer:

May we pray.

Almighty God, by whose permissive will the counsels of men and women are privileged to convene, we pause at the outset of a new day to acknowledge Your power and dominion and to proclaim Your goodness. We call upon Your grace to consecrate this hallowed Chamber so that Your power and goodness may guide the affairs of state to which these honored and honorable men and women will this day attend. Grant that they may see a vision of government for the people and by the people, in which the people are daily inspired by the law of the land to live, work, and play together according to a higher law: the law of love.

By the power of Your love, empower them to discharge the duties of their office in the confidence that they neither labor in vain nor without the abiding appreciation of a grateful republic. Be the source of refuge and peaceful release for them, the members of their staffs, and especially their families who sacrifice much so that they may dutifully serve the common good with dedication, devotion, and distinction.

Fill them with strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow. Amen.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The able acting majority leader, the able

Senator from North Carolina, is recognized.

THE GUEST CHAPLAIN

Mr. FAIRCLOTH. Mr. President, it is, indeed, a special privilege for me today to welcome as our guest chaplain, Dr. Clarence Newsome.

Before I get into the other distinguished things about Dr. Newsome, I would like to mention that he is a native North Carolinian, born in Ahoskie, NC, and spent 18 years at one of our premier universities, Duke University, not only as a professor, but as a football player and a great leader of that university.

He is now dean of the Howard University School of Divinity. Dr. Newsome is a distinguished clergyman, an impelling preacher, and a very visionary educator. He is known throughout the Nation as one of the most insightful and sensitive thinkers on religion, culture, and social issues of our time. Dr. Newsome continues to play a major role in the strategic development of Howard University.

His presence with us today is an opportunity for the Senate to affirm the crucial and important contribution of Howard University to the city of Washington, to the District of Columbia, and to our Nation and world as a whole, being one of the leading producers of diplomats throughout the world.

I welcome Dr. Clarence Newsome.

SCHEDULE

Mr. FAIRCLOTH. Mr. President, on behalf of the majority leader, I want to announce that this morning, the Senate will immediately resume consideration of Senator SESSIONS' second-degree amendment to Senator DURBIN's amendment, concerning the tobacco agreement, to S. 1061, the Labor-HHS appropriations bill. As Members are aware, the Senate has been able to dispose of all but a very few amendments

remaining in order to the bill. Therefore, the cooperation of all Members will be appreciated in the scheduling of time agreements and floor action on amendments. Members can anticipate rollcall votes throughout today's session of the Senate as we attempt to complete action on the Labor-HHS appropriations bill. Thank you, Mr. President.

DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1998

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the clerk will report S. 1061.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1061) making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1998, and for other purposes.

The Senate resumed consideration of the bill.

Pending:

Gregg amendment No. 1070, to prohibit the use of funds for national testing in reading and mathematics, with certain exceptions.

Coats-Gregg amendment No. 1071 (to amendment No. 1070), to prohibit the development, planning, implementation, or administration of any national testing program in reading or mathematics unless the program is specifically authorized by Federal statute.

Nickles-Jeffords amendment No. 1081, to limit the use of taxpayer funds for any future International Brotherhood of Teamsters leadership election.

Craig-Jeffords amendment No. 1083 (to Amendment No. 1081), in the nature of a substitute.

Durbin-Collins amendment No. 1078, to repeal the tobacco industry settlement credit contained in the Balanced Budget Act of 1997.

Mack-Graham amendment No. 1090, to increase the appropriations for the Mary McLeod Bethune Memorial Fine Arts Center.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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